

**EXERCISE---EXERCISE--- EXERCISE (NLE11)**

**QUAKE CAUSES VINCENNES LEVY BREACH  
Residents should be prepared to evacuate**

INDIANAPOLIS – May 16, 2011 – The levy on the Wabash River, two miles north of Vincennes and four miles south of Emison, has been breached and is causing agricultural flooding in the area. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is strongly urging residents in the area to prepare for possible flooding conditions.

**Residents downstream of this levy should listen to an all hazards alert radio or stay tuned to local radio or TV stations for updated information and emergency alerts and be prepared to evacuate at the direction of local public safety officials.**

Failing to evacuate at the request of local public safety officials could place you and your family in danger. This also places unnecessary risk and strain on emergency responders if they must later be called away from other efforts to provide assistance.

All residents are advised to remain vigilant and aware of developing weather systems in their area as unstable weather patterns and persistent rainfall can change flood conditions rapidly.

**Stay informed about developing conditions and obey public safety officials:** Stay alert to developing weather and emergency situations with an all hazards alert radio or by tuning to local radio and television stations.

**Elevate items in your home:** If you believe your home is in an area that may be affected, elevate valuables and other important items to upper levels of your home. Store important documents on upper shelves or in higher cabinet drawers.

**Be prepared to evacuate:**

- Plan ahead of time where you will go and how you will get there.
- If you are advised to evacuate you should take IMMEDIATE action.
- If possible, avoid arriving empty handed at a shelter. Bring food, water and any other personal items you think you might need.
- If you have time and if you are instructed to do so, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves before you evacuate your home. Disconnect electrical appliances, but do NOT touch electrical equipment if you are wet, the appliance is wet or there is standing water.

**Obey the traffic directions of public safety officials:** Follow all flood-related traffic signs such as “road closed” and “high water” warning signs, and avoid driving around barricades.

**Driving tips for keeping yourself and others safe during flooding:**

- Motorists should never attempt to drive across flooded roadways. Water depth can be difficult to judge. Even if water appears safe to cross, the condition of the road

underneath might be dangerous. Road sections can erode and large holes can suddenly develop.

- Monitor local media or an all hazards alert radio for updated weather conditions and flood-related alerts and warnings, and always carry a cell phone when travelling.
- Turn Around, Don't Drown. You can lose control of your vehicle in only a few inches of water and risk jeopardizing the safety of yourself and others by causing an accident or becoming stranded.
- Plan alternate routes to work, school and other essential destinations in case your primary path is flooded. Allow extra travel time to avoid inconveniencing employers, clients, care-givers or others who may depend on your timely arrival.
- Be especially cautious when driving at night. Flood waters are more difficult to see in the dark and conditions can change quickly. Even if a road was passable on the way to work, it might not be on the way home.
- Never enter flood waters attempting to rescue a stranded motorist. In addition to the health risks posed by numerous pathogens and pollutants in unsanitary flood water, unseen currents can quickly overtake even strong swimmers, creating the need for another rescue. Call 9-1-1 and wait for help to arrive.

Other potential hazards related to flooding include slippery conditions, poor visibility, floating debris and downed, live wires which can cause electrical shock.

For more information about staying safe during an earthquake, visit [www.GetPrepared.in.gov](http://www.GetPrepared.in.gov).

Follow Indiana on "my social media" at [www.MySocialMedia.com/Indiana](http://www.MySocialMedia.com/Indiana) to stay informed about this developing situation.

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**Media Contact:** THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION IS NOT FOR DISCLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC: Joint Information Center (JIC) 317.238.1784, [JIC@JIC.in.gov](mailto:JIC@JIC.in.gov).